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For Immediate Release

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**Alabama Historical Commission awarded prestigious grant
from the Institute of Museum and Library Services**

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) has received a *Connection to Collections: Statewide Planning Grant* from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

The grant which will fund the creation of a comprehensive directory of the state's collecting organizations, as well as a survey that identifies critical needs for those organizations. In addition, it will fund emergency preparedness workshops throughout the state. All of these activities will help libraries and museums across the state to preserve their collections for future generations to enjoy.

The AHC will administer the grant and partner with the Alabama Department of Archives and History, the Alabama Museums Association, the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries, and the Society of Alabama Archivists to create a comprehensive statewide plan to protect collections. The partners encourage the participation of all public and private organizations in the development of the plan. The grant totals \$39,611, and the project will be complete by March 2011.

Clyde Eller, Chief Curator for the Commission, comments, "We believe that by creating a partnership across disciplines we can be more effective in building solutions that preserve our state's distinctive culture."

"These projects represent movement toward collaborative thinking among collection-holding institutions that have a strong commitment to collections stewardship. IMLS funding will assist these relationships in blossoming into powerful alliances that will serve collections and the people who use them for years to come," states Dr. Anne-Imelda M. Radice, Director, IMLS.

This grant is part of the IMLS initiative, Connecting to Collections: A Call to Action, which is a plan to raise public awareness and inspire action on collections care.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The Institute works at the national level and in coordination with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development. To learn more about the Institute, please visit www.imls.gov.

The **Alabama Historical Commission** is the official state agency responsible for preserving, protecting, and interpreting Alabama's historic places.